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St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

W4GAC

P. O. BOX 4026

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

S P A R C - G A P

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JULY 1973.



**REGULAR MEETINGS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
OF EACH MONTH**



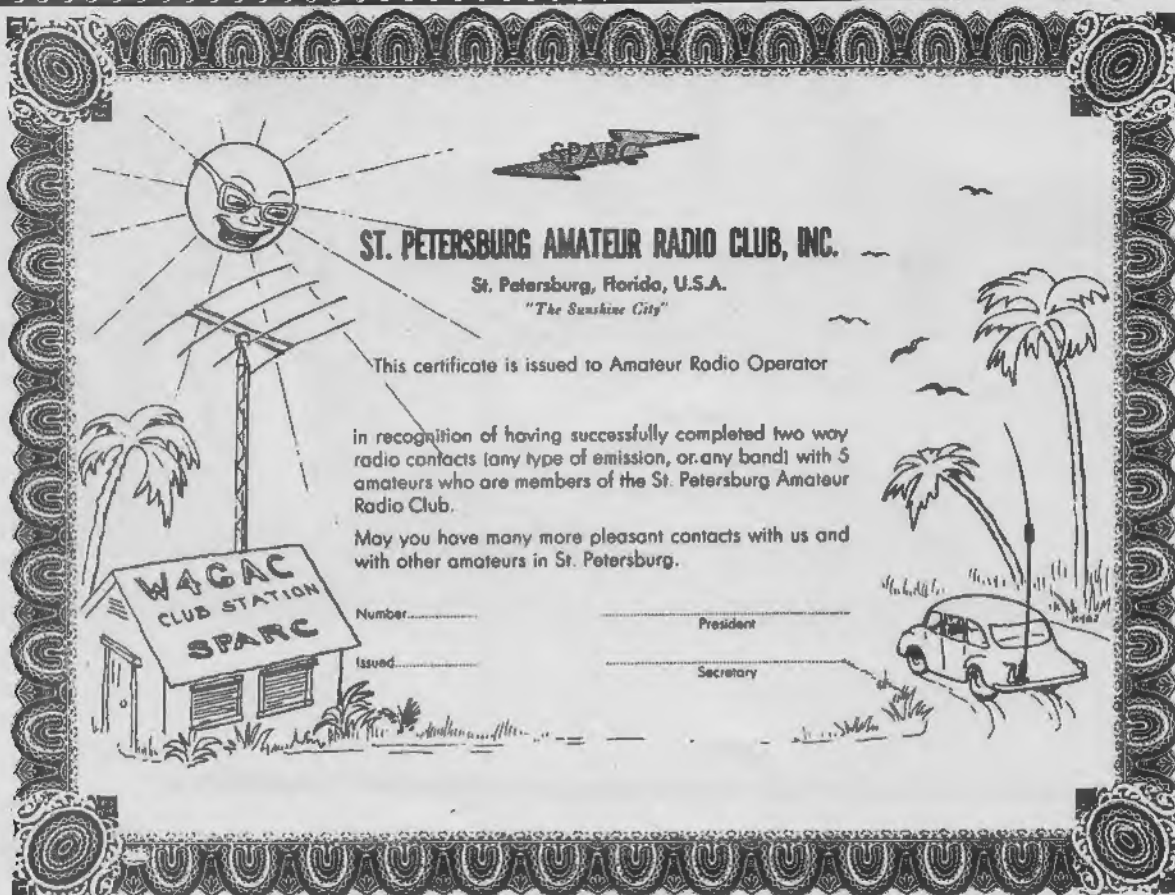
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NEXT MEETING -JULY 6th.. 1973

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P R O G R A M

WOODY HUDDLESTON K4SCL - Assistant South Florida Section Communication Manager, will give us a talk on traffic handling. He is also Net Manager for F A S T Net.

Bill Givvines, WN4VTN , President of the FRANKLIN ARC has again extended the, invitation to attend the Franlin ARC Club when visiting the mountains in Georgia and North Carolina. The meeting night has been changed to the 2nd Thursday at the Savings and Loan Bldg. at 7:30PM Call "RED" WB4RXT Franklin 524-5492 for instructions if needed.

Highlights from SPARC GAP Meeting June 1, 1973; George May K4GQP was elected new Vice-President to fill the unexpired term of Art Monsees who became President upon the resignation of Jim Keyes. George was duly sworn into office by President Monsees.

It was reported that Carl Forsberg is recuperating from recent surgery; Bill Dixon is in Lake Seminole Nursing Home and doing nicely; and Jim Gillespie was home and coming along, but not yet well enough to attend the meetings. A card or cheery call would be appreciated by all these nice HAMS.

George Dixon of the newly formed Tampa Bay Area Hamfest committee explained the new idea of all six clubs in the Tampa Bay area getting together and having one large hamfest to be held in October of each year with representatives of each club making plans, running the affair, etc. There is to be a meeting held June 14th. at 7:30 PM at the North Tampa Chamber of Commerce Building, Sulphur Springs, to discuss future plans and all who are interested can attend.

Cdr Jack Lipsy WB4RWT of the Coast Guard Auxiliary again provided us with a most interesting talk on Search and Rescue Missions and showed a film on Safety in Boating. Our sincere thanks to Cdr Lipsy.

Change of address: K4UW - Koppe, Charles A. - 440 - 3rd Street S Safety Harbor, 33572
Phone: 726-8672 .

*** S P A R C - G A P ***

At the Orlando Hamfest, a guest speaker was Mr. A. Prose Walker, Chief of Amateur and Citizens Div., F.C.C. Washington D.C. With everyone clamoring for more frequencies, he brought up the following points, concerning the Amateurs, which are worth thinking about, as they are being considered by the F.C.C.

With so little equipment being built by the Amateurs, and the greatest part being commercially built, should standard specifications be set for such commercial gear.

Should the scope of the Radio Amateur be refined? What are their goals? Should the licensing structure be changed? Should a change be made in the examination system? For what purpose should additional bands be granted the Amateurs? Should participation in emergencies be made a condition of the license? Should the licensing structure be changed? Should a Conditional Class License be limited in time, say five years, so the licensee would have sufficient time to appear before an FCC officer for proper examination.

Correction- WA4MHR Burt Daisey's phone number is 896-0271 (instead of 2071) Besides his call W8IY, Gil Ludlow also has WB4KJO - his 4th District call.

de K4WXS

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 424 from ARRL Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut.

How is Oscar doing? Contrary to rumors, Amsat says Oscar 6 is not near its end of life. It is felt that Oscar will achieve the one year design lifetime, but complete cooperation of users becomes an increasingly vital factor. The operating schedule has been modified leaving the satellite on for Thursday, Saturday and Monday GMT each week, to provide more frequent battery recharge periods. Recharging cannot take place if amateurs use the repeater during the off days. If you find the repeater on when it should be off, please do not transmit in the 145.9 to 146 MHz uplink band. Observance of the hundred watt effective radiated power limitation is another positive step to insure continued good performance. The traslater output band is 29.45 to 29.55 MHz.

The ARRL Member's Guide to Amateur Sayellites is now ready for distribution. This convenient 32-page collection of background articles from QST, the ARRL Handbook and Amsat Newsletter features information on equipment and techniquws needed to use the satellite, orbit plotting, orbit prediction using Doppler measurements, satellite tracking and guidelines for construction of helix antennas. For your free unfolded copy, by first class mail, send an addressed envelope larger than six by nine inches with 16 cents United States postage to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111

*** S P A R C - G A P ***

Nr.426 - During the summer travel season many amateurs visit ARRL Headquarters and the Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW. The league Headquarters building is open to visitors Monday through Friday, eight to five EDST, without appointment. Times other than these can be covered by writing ahead and arranging for a tour. Holiday closings will occur on May 28, July 4 and September 3. Printed directions to ARRL are available without charge. Send an addressed stamped envelope with eight cents postage to ARRL, Newington Conn. Remember to bring your original license, not a photocopy, to operate W1AW.

Nr.427 - The following are the calls of the high claimed Top Ten single operator scores in the 1973 ARRL International DX Competition. DX cw, KH6RS KV4HW YV5KL KH6IJ LU5HFI TI2DX KH6IAB 9Y4VU EA2IA I6BQI. W/VE cw K1NOL W1BPW K1LPL/3 W1YK W2GXD K1DIR K1VTM WA1RCP WB4YOJ W2DXL. DX.phone, 6J9AA 4M4AGP KZ5JF XG1J LU5HFI VP2MY KH6BZF KH6IJ 9Y4VU CE3AQW. W/VE phone, W7RM W6RR K6EBB W1YK K1JHX K1VTM W4ZCY K1THQ W3GRF K6SVL. The full listing of highclaimed scores will appear in the July issue of QST.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Again we have a Vice President in SPARC GAP ! The members elected George May K4GQP, as their Vice President for the remainder of the 1973 unexpired term of Art Monsees. George has a General Class License, and was licensed first in 1933. The new Vice President has four married daughters and lives with his wife Dorothy at 2080 Michigan Avenue, NE Venetian Isles, in St.Petersburg. He has the Collins -S- Line a Yagi beam and Dipole antenna, George can be found on the 10, 15, or 80 meter bands, using SSB. He is very interested in fast scan TV and hopes to have his equipment in operation soon.

We have been coasting merrily along for a time without any of our guest speakers failing to show up at our monthly meetings. When a speaker announces beforehand that he cannot make it, a qualified substitute speaker will be obtained. The members will be notified in sufficient time, if at all possible. Yet, we feel that we are not doing an effective selling job if one of our scheduled speakers backs out at the last minute without a valid reason. Let's continue to keep our fingers crossed in this respect.

Why does it have to happen that so many of us are satisfied to buy our own equipment ready made? Or, on the other hand, how does it happen that when we can't afford that and have to "roll our own" we are satisfied to copy painlessly some published design of equipment? It ought also to be a matter of aesthetic satisfaction, at the very least, to be sufficiently qualified, technically speaking, to be able to set up and to design and build most of our own gear. Let's have some originality !!!! The ARRL and Radio Handbooks are valuable guides, fertile with ideas, and should be used as aids in the design and construction of our gear. Foreign amateurs, by the way, skin the pants off of us in this respect. Yet, frankly, many of them probably have no other choice.

The offering of the Amateur Extra Class License by the FCC is a challenge to amateurs, proficiency and achievement and something which every serious amateur should accept!!!

*** S P A R C - G A P ***

THE PRESIDENT COLUMN
Cont'd

In the good old days, the quite capable amateur could establish his proficiency by passing the commercial license examinations. Yet, today, there is such a marked difference between amateur and commercial equipments, techniques, and procedures that it is only infrequently that an amateur is able to pass the commercial examinations and only after special study for that purpose..... and even then, it does not indicate particularly his greater proficiency as an amateur! To be eligible for the Amateur Extra Class examination, the applicant must have had at least two years experience as a radio operator and must be able to send and receive code at 20 words per minute.

In addition, a special examination, just a little broader in scope than the General and advanced examinations, is given with a passing grade of 75 percent being required. All and all, after a little diligent study, including code practice, it is not too difficult to obtain as several of our SPARC-GAP members can testify. Any serious amateur worth his salt should not rest until he has accomplished this goal.

Official Bulletin NR 428: The ARRL Board of Directors meets twice annually to formulate the course of ARRL affairs. The second meeting of 1973 is scheduled for July 19. The full members of ARRL elect the board which has the overall responsibility for managing the affairs of the league. This democratic process is effective only to the extent that the membership participates. Now is the time for members and affiliated clubs to communicate their ideas, including those on the current RACES inquiry discussed on page 78 of June QST, to their division director at the address shown on page 8 of any 1973 QST.

!!Official Bulletin NR 429!!

Creation of a Class E Citizens Radio Service has been proposed by the Federal Communications Commission in a notice adopted June 6. It is suggested that the frequencies 224 to 225 MHz be withdrawn from the amateur service to create forty new CB channels. FCC seeks detailed comments on what activities should be permitted in such a service and what regulations should govern, with particular interest in enforcement procedures. This rulemaking proposal arises from RM 1747, filed two years ago by the Electronics Industries Association, and five other requests which FCC felt to be in the same basic area: RMs 1633, 1656, 1761, 1793 and 1841. Amateurs and clubs will undoubtedly wish to file official comments directly with FCC after reading the full text of the proposal in the August issue of QST. The deadline for comments is September 20. However, league members may want to inform their division directors of their initial reactions, prior to the ARRL Board meeting July 19. Names and addresses appear on page 8 of 1973 issues of QST. The headquarters seeks information on present and planned amateur use of the entire 220-225 MHz band with as much statistical information as possible. !!

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